



CSU Bakersfield

Academic Affairs

Office of Grants, Research, and Sponsored Programs (GRaSP)

Mail Stop: 24 DDH Room 108
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022

(661) 654-2231
(661) 654-3342 FAX
www.csub.edu

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 17, 2020

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Isabel Sumaya, Ph.D.
Research Ethics Review Coordinator, HSIRB & IACUC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Isabel Sumaya'.

SUBJECT: CSUB HSIRB Activity During the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak

Given the current COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak and suspension of on-campus, in-person classes for the remainder of the spring semester, it is necessary that the risk/benefit ratio for research participation be reassessed for each protocol. As you know, ethical principles of research and federal regulations for the protection of human research participants require an acceptable risk/benefit ratio. Because the majority of approved human research studies at CSUB are those in which there is little to no prospect of direct benefit to participants, and because the outbreak is of a serious nature at this time, the risks do not outweigh the benefits. Consequently, study procedures involving in-person, face-to-face contact with participants must be paused, effective immediately. Protocol procedures such as online survey, and telephone data collection may continue as they pose no threat to the participant or researcher. For those studies that can be adapted from face-to-face data collection to remote online activities, we urge you to submit a modification in CAYUSE so that approval can be sought, and your research can continue. We realize that the pause in data collection may adversely affect important data collection especially for students needing to complete culminating projects, theses, and senior projects for graduation. Nevertheless, we need to do what is best in order to protect human research participants.

The submission of protocols in CAYUSE will continue to be reviewed during the suspension of on campus class activity regardless of mode of data collection. However, for those that are approved for in person, face-to-face data collection, data cannot be collected until a reassessment of the cost/benefit ratio can be done based on changes of the outbreak of the virus. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.